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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



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March 9, 2011

Volume 74 Issue 4

SEVENTH MEMBER OF ASU VACATES POSITION MID-TERM

Commissioner of Public Relations steps down amid ongoing controversy.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Christian Fierro, Associated Student Union's commissioner of public relations, resigned last Tuesday following a heated debate surrounding the approval of \$17,000. The money will fund Valley College's participation in next week's March in March advocacy event in Sacramento.

Fierro is the seventh person to leave ASU this academic year. Presently, the positions of chief justice, parliamentarian, and commissioners of campus and environmental affairs, ethnic and cultural affairs, and political affairs remain vacant. The paid secretary position was also vacant at the start of the semester, but was filled in February.

"[The funding debate] wasn't the sole reason I left. It was the icing on the cake," Fierro said. "Issues and questions have been going on for a while."

Fierro described what he felt was a direct attack against his dedication to the student

organization, Valley students, and the importance of successfully advocating on their behalf.

"I'm all for March in March and going [to Sacramento] to advocate for students," said Fierro. "What I was against was the misappropriation and inefficient use of funds. Even after I clearly stated that, I was told that my vote of 'no' meant I didn't care about the students and March in March."

During the March 1 meeting, ASU President Hanna Matevosyan presented the executive council's proposed event budget of \$17,000, which would fund airfare at \$400 per person, ground transportation, and meals for 35 students and three chaperones. Fierro, along with Commissioner of Evening Division Larisa Michell, voiced concerns over what they felt were unnecessarily high costs associated with the trip, offering less expensive options such as lower-cost airfare or bus travel. After the council voted 5-2 to approve the budget amount, the issue resurfaced at the close of the meeting, sparking the debate that ended in Fierro's resignation.

The recent resignations of ASU members are the latest in what might be seen as a series of struggles plaguing this year's

student government organization.

In November, Valley Star reported on a closed-door session involving members of the executive committee who gathered to voice concerns over what was felt to be a lack of action and leadership on the part of Matevosyan.

In the article, ASU Vice President Kawamara Kazooba said, "We felt that if we brought in the president, showing her what things have been going wrong with her leadership, that she'd be willing to change. We let her know that if she doesn't change, we would leave her behind; we would impeach her."

By the following week, Kazooba had made an about-face, telling Valley Star, "I really support Matevosyan's leadership and I'm confident that if we stick together and hold each other accountable... Overall, we're doing well. We need to get back to the core values of the ASU and we'll have a great board."

Controversy over spending student funds is also nothing new to this term's executive council. In December, the decision to approve \$3,500 to provide additional staffing for Valley's Career and Transfer Center came only after various members, including Matevosyan,



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

CONTROVERSY - ASU President Hanna Matevosyan's leadership abilities have been questioned by former members.

who voiced her opposition stating, "We ask students to pay a \$10 student representation fee. Nowhere in the description does it say we'll take their money to pay for new employees." Fierro countered her response saying, "We also never told the students we were taking an ASU winter retreat. I think if we asked students which was more important, they'd choose the Transfer Center," a reference to the then unanimously approved decision to spend \$2,500 on a training retreat in Palm Springs.

According to sources, the retreat was ultimately cancelled due to planning issues.

When asked about Fierro's resignation, Matevosyan emailed a strongly worded response to the Valley Star, describing what she felt was Fierro's failure to fulfill the duties of his position.

In part, the statement read, "Last week, after once again failing to accomplish a task that was assigned to him by the ASU executive board, Fierro resigned. He announced his resignation after

the board expressed its discontent with his failure to accomplish the task of planning a trip to Sacramento in accordance with the district deadlines. This was not the first time Fierro has failed to perform his duties as defined by the ASU bylaws."

ASU's adviser, Elizabeth Ortiz, declined to comment on Matevosyan's statement.

"I'd rather not comment on that. I think it's a matter of opinion," Ortiz said.

[See ASU, Page 2]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Academic Affairs reminds students to consistently update e-mail contact information in order to receive timely updates regarding cancelled or added classes.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES:

Interviews with "Beastly" stars Vanessa Hudgens and Alex Pettyfer, plus a review of Johnny Depp's "Rango."

ONGOING BUDGET CUTS FORCE DRASTIC REDUCTION OF VALLEY'S SUMMER SESSION

Budget cuts continue to hamper students' quest for education.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

In the latest blow against California's community college system, Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed \$400 million funding cut has forced Valley College administrators to practically cancel summer session. Current plans have gutted core classes from the session, leaving students without access to traditional English, math

and science programs.

If finalized, this shell of a summer program could leave an estimated 8,755 students without necessary summer courses, further delaying their graduation and transfer time.

"For right now, the plan is a limited special programs process," said Sandy Mayo, Valley's vice president of academic affairs. "We're also trying to have the flexibility to add other classes if we can."

While the decision has not yet been finalized, Mayo estimates offered programs will include

athletics, VCAP, co-op education, SummerFest, and certain sections within the child development department. Selection criteria is largely based on whether or not a program is designed to be offered year round or is self-sustainable through grant money.

In an attempt to accommodate students, instructors of the year-round programs have agreed to extend enrollment to non-program students as space allows. Interested students must negotiate enrollment directly with the instructor via an add card. No online registration will be offered.

The challenge in determining what summer classes can be offered lies within the fact that the state budget has yet to be finalized, leaving Valley administrators unsure of exactly how much needs to be cut. In an effort to avoid optimistically scheduling classes, only to cut them at the last minute, administrators are opting to make drastic cuts early enough for students to make alternate plans if needed, and with enough lead time to add classes if the final budget allows for adequate funding.

"Nothing is in concrete, it all depends on the budget," Mayo

said. "We've been told there's a possibility of a reduction of 5-15 percent. We don't want to set up classes and [then have to cancel them]. To me, that's just awful."

Many students have turned to other campuses in an attempt to secure required classes.

Valley student Harut Sargsian is already making plans to attend classes at Glendale Community College and Pierce this summer.

"One of my professors said summer was cancelled, so I made other plans," Sargsian said. "It's really unfair. I've already been

[See SUMMER, Page 2]



EVA J. GALA | VALLEY STAR

BEING HEARD - Valley students Iman Howard and Nicole Allen sign a petition against budget cuts during Welcome Day.

VALLEY JOINS THE BACK TO SCHOOL WELCOME WAGON

ASU entertains students with a free carnival.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Nearly a month into the spring semester, Valley College's Associated Student Union hosted Welcome Day outside Monarch Hall, Thursday. The event marked the second time ASU organized a free carnival to ring in the start of a new semester.

The event was originally calendared for the first week of school, but had to be rescheduled due to rain.

"Students are drained and can use connecting with others to

take their minds off stressing out about not being able to get into classes with the whole budget crisis, said ASU President Hanna Matevosyan. "That's why we pushed to have this event."

Students enjoyed free hot dogs, lemonade, inflatable games and a dunk tank, while KVCM, Valley's radio station, played music. There was also a cotton candy and self-serve ice cream machine, but a shortage of electricity left them unusable for much of the event.

The ASU approved about \$2,000 for the carnival expenses. Money used to pay for Welcome Day came from the general contingency fund consisting of

money students pay each semester for the student representation fee.

"I like that everybody here is friendly," said freshman David Adam Tucker, who enjoyed the event with friends, while practicing the acoustic version of Green Day's "Brain Stew" on the guitar. "It's great to be in a chill environment. I feel inspired."

The event gathered approximately 100 people during its peak period around 1 p.m., when most students were out of classes. According to ASU treasurer Samuel Markayan, the turnout was about the same as last year.

"It's very cool, there is free [See WELCOME, Page 2]

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ASU

Continued from page 1

An anonymous student with ties to ASU and experience working with Fierro, defended his track record with the organization.

"That is not true at all. He has not failed whatsoever," the student said, adding, "He has always been a helpful, devoted member."

Valley student Elizabeth Valdejiuli, ASU's former commissioner of political affairs, echoed the sentiment that Matevosyan and Kazooba's assessment of Fierro was untrue.

"That's extremely incorrect," Valdejiuli said, suggesting that the overall problems affecting the organization were the direct result of a lack of leadership. "I believe that to be a leader, you need many qualities, including [the ability to] motivate others. [Matevosyan] never had that and I don't think she deserved the position of president."

SUMMER

Continued from page 1

here two years and it's taking so long to get my classes."

Mayo applauds students who are able to find what they need, and is happy to help whenever she can.

"Last summer I sent a student to El Camino College for a class. I've sent students to L.A. Trade Tech," she said. "If we find that there are classes somewhere else that students can get into, we will certainly help them in any way we can."

In addition to attending other campuses within and outside the Los Angeles Community College District, students can investigate proprietary institutions such as University of Phoenix and DeVry

University. However, in order for courses to be transferable back to Valley, the University of California or California State University systems, the program must be regionally accredited by either the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

As classes at Valley become increasingly difficult to secure, Mayo strongly advised students to remain enrolled in the classes they have.

"I had a student recently say, 'I always sign up for extra classes and then just drop what I can't handle,'" Mayo said. "You know, that's really not a nice thing to do. You're taking a spot away from another student, and you've really hurt people who would've

otherwise been in those spots."

ASU, and so they make excuses and want to blame somebody," Matevosyan said. "Because they can't fulfill the responsibilities of their positions, they want to blame it on poor leadership."

ASU Treasurer Sam Markaryan defended Matevosyan, saying comments describing her as unprofessional were completely fabricated.

"I haven't seen her be difficult with anybody," Markaryan said. "She's always been supportive of our members. As far as calling her inexperienced, not only is she president of the ASU at Valley, she's also the president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges for region seven, where she was elected by 15 student presidents."

According to Fierro, the ongoing challenges facing ASU have left the organization unable to represent students to the best of its ability.

"This board has been very unprofessional," Fierro said, citing what he believes is an overall derogatory image of the organization among many students. "We didn't do much; we should've been a lot more productive and a lot more efficient."

Valley student Erick Robles agrees. "I feel like [ASU] is trying to do stuff, but I would like to see more," he said. "I think they probably have good intentions, but really want to push their own agendas."

With the campaign and election period for the 2011-2012 term approaching, Valdejiuli hopes Valley students will seek to elect what she describes as more capable leaders.

"[Students] need to look for candidates who are experienced, and should really consider what [the candidate] will offer the council," she said.

otherwise been in those spots."

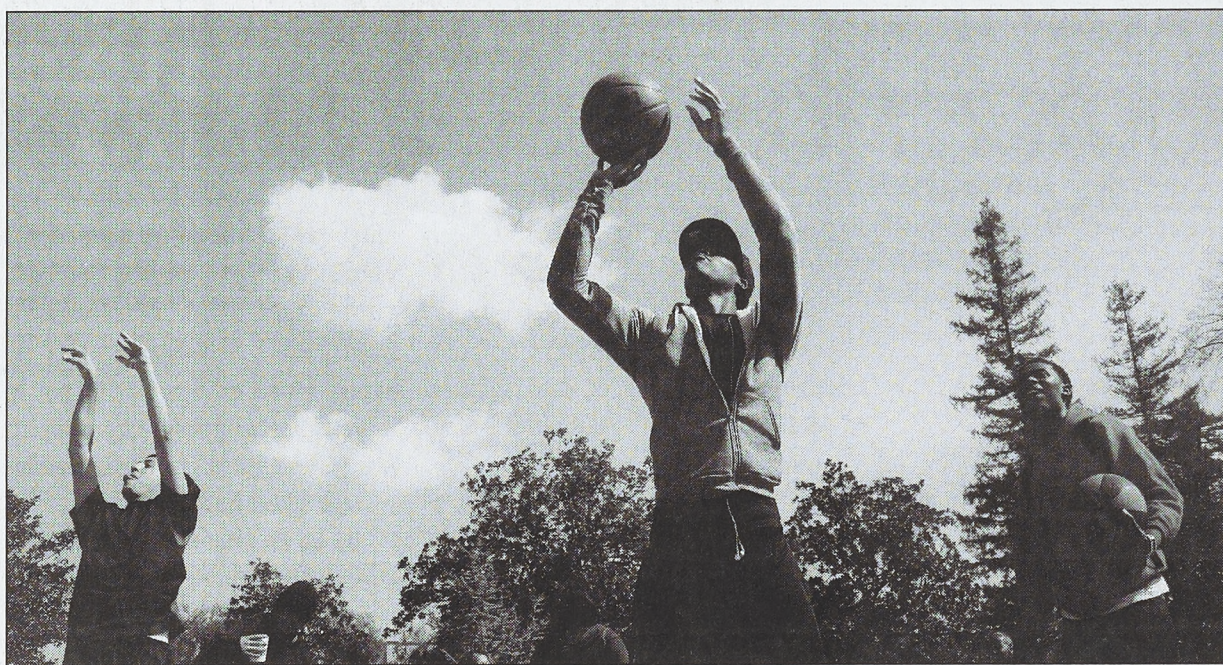
In addition to the loss of the traditional summer session, upcoming cutbacks are expected to include a 10 percent reduction in fall and spring semester classes for the 2011-2012 academic year, and fewer on-campus jobs for

students.

"We know that students who have jobs on campus are often more successful, but the problem is, for every \$5,000 that I'm not spending on student workers, that would put 40 students in a three-hour class," Mayo explained.

Health	History	Journalism
HEALTHY LIVING: THE BENEFITS OF REGULAR EXERCISE AND A HEALTHY DIET. (L.A. TIMES)	HISTORY OF THE VALLEY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VALLEY OF THE SUN. (VALLEY STAR)	JOURNALISM: THE ART AND CRAFT OF JOURNALISM. (VALLEY STAR)
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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR



SHOOTS, SCORES? - Wide receiver Donte Gilmer tries his hand at basketball during the Valley's Welcome Back Day.

WELCOME

Continued from page 1

stuff," said music major Walton Cembalos, who enjoyed the food and games. "You are in the company of friends, and you get to meet new people. It's stress free and no worries. They should do this more often."

In watching the festivities, Markaryan recalled how attending the first Welcome Day motivated him to join ASU.

"I was here last year [for Welcome Day] and that gave me the motivation to be part of the board," he said. "It's not just about studying; it's also about having fun and helping out."

NEWS IN BRIEF

BARRY JAKOB
STAFF WRITER

LOCAL NEWS:

SACRAMENTO—U.S.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan criticized California's policy of cutting education funding to balance the budget in the short term. "The idea that somehow reducing the school days or school year or instructional time is a smart way to reduce spending -- I cannot support that," Duncan said. "There's a right way and a wrong way to cut spending." California has allowed school systems to shorten the school year by five days for the past two years. (LA Times)

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Police Department has provided prosecutors with findings of its investigation of Jeff Stenroos, an El Camino Real High School

police officer who, in January, falsely claimed he was shot while trying to apprehend a car thief. The incident brought much of the West San Fernando Valley to a standstill for hours. The LAPD is seeking felony charges against Stenroos as criminal prosecutors wait to file charges. (LA Times)

NATIONAL NEWS:

ATLANTA—According to a recent federal study, fewer teens and young adults are having sex. The study, based on interviews with 5,300 young people ages 15 to 24, showed an 8 percent reduction in sexual contact as compared to 78 percent during the past decade. (NY Times)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Supreme Court recently ruled 8-1 that the First Amendment protects hateful protests at military funerals. "Speech is powerful," Chief Justice John G. Roberts wrote for the majority. "It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and -- as it did here -- inflict great pain. We cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker." (NY Times)

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VALLEY STAR CORRECTION

Last week, Issue 3, Valley Star incorrectly identified the Avon Street Quintet as the Avon Street Quartet on page 1, and misspelled member Lyman Medeiros' name in the accompanying

photo's caption.

In Sports (Monarchs Go Down Swinging), the Oxnard Condors were mistakenly referred to as the Concord's in one reference.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

IS THE CAFE AS BAD AS IT SEEMS?

Complaints made against the Valley campus cafeteria are unfounded.

NICOLE HUTCHINON
STAFF WRITER

The word “cafeteria” is a daunting one in that the horrors stemming from grade school and ongoing throughout high school of soggy waffles and overly charred hamburgers still desecrate the mind. However, Monarch Café (sounding better already), the Valley College cafeteria, was impressive because the food was made to order, the vegetables had a crispness to them, and any place that makes pancake batter on the spot in the morning and eggs cooked to order gets a high mark in my book.

Perhaps the expectations of a kid fresh out of high school are not without their biases when the quality of a burger is bumped up a letter grade because cheese was actually an option and the lettuce wasn't half dead; however, anyone with higher than average expectations of a school cafeteria has got some serious delusions, or is full of it.

It's exasperating to have to constantly overhear the incessant whining of Valley students on the topic of the school cafeteria, and the sad truth is that most of these



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

grumblers probably haven't tried it because of the aforementioned horrors they have experienced. These people are creating misconceptions before giving the place a shot.

Wusses. Besides, it's hard to believe a place that closely resembles a 7-11 in stock can be all that awful. If you're not feeling the burgers then there is pre-packaged goodness on the racks nearby. If a health-conscious choice is what you seek then visit the deli, and if you're into greasy greatness the curly fries are a must.

This is not to say that the Monarch Café is without its flaws. Admittedly, the prices are much steeper than they should be. A cheeseburger at \$3.50 versus an

In-N-Out cheeseburger for only 25 cents more doesn't seem to be a fair comparison. At the same time, the reason why everyone isn't lining up at the door of the nearest In-N-Out location is because they have classes to get to and as a result of the short staffing in the Monarch Café, students are late to class.

“Prices can be unreasonable and they could afford to have more people working so we're not late,” said nursing student Jerson Castillo.

As a whole, considering the prices and the short staffing, Monarch Café serves decent food for what it is and should stop being the topic of conversation for the moaners and groaners on campus.

With all the pressures of life at Valley College finding a decent place to eat has become harder than finding parking in Lot A.

BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Most community colleges are surrounded by dozens of fast food huts and restaurants, whereas Valley College is an island unto itself with little to no outside food options leaving students, teachers and brave visitors to get food at the Monarch Café.

Walking into the Monarch Café

is like stepping into the Cantina from “Star Wars.” Tables are filled with unique characters playing a multitude of card games and discussing things not fit for print. There has never been someone cleaning the cafeteria or taking out the overflowing trash bins. The addition of new recycling bins are nice, but they too are often full before some random person comes in with a plastic garbage bag to take the valuable materials for themselves.

As far as prices go, the café is a mixed bag depending on what you are in the mood for. The menu of pizza and burgers is high for a student on a budget; \$3.35 for a hamburger and \$4.50 for a veggie burger seem expensive to those of us used to value menus at the local fast food joint. But what's really incomprehensible is the price of the fuel students live on—energy drinks. The variety of bright-colored, heart-stopping soda is about \$1.50 more than the student store and vending machines.

With all the renovations going on here at campus, it shouldn't be too hard to put a food court in. One would think that many notable restaurant chains would like to be at Valley. Perhaps a nice food truck could find its way here or maybe a military supply drop.

Until things change, pack a light saber and Lysol wipes before loading up on more Red Bull than humanly possible, and pray for a Sbarro kiosk to appear.

Valley's new Allied Health & Sciences Center is the latest example of poor leadership in the community college arena.

BARRY JAKOB
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Times is in the midst of publishing a six-part investigative piece on mismanagement and wasteful spending in the Los Angeles Community College District, citing “tens of millions have gone to waste” in fulfilling the promise of reforming Valley College and her eight sister schools into 21st century institutions.

Part two of the investigation is dedicated to Valley's new Allied Health & Sciences Center, dubbing it “a new complex riddled with ills that are costly to cure. Ceiling panels and floor tiles were askew, crooked cabinet doors would not shut. Hot water ran through cold water pipes, and exit signs and fire extinguishers are missing.” Unfortunately, that's just the beginning of it.

As a result of multiple construction defects, LACCD used \$3.5 million to pay for the repairs by other firms. This was after the opening of the \$48 million science building.

The recent report on LACCD is merely salt to the wound. The district is already saddled with momentous debt and almost no power to remedy exposed problems. With summer session already in peril, the problems that lay ahead grow steadily with more and more cash being sucked through the drain of bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, the system hasn't reformed. Money is being burned needlessly and students are being adversely affected.

The new Times report takes a justified swing at the leadership establishment responsible for our fates as students. In a world evolving to demand a college education, the last thing the next generation of students can tolerate is continued fiscal recklessness. The board of trustees (who aren't very trustworthy) need to make a consolidated effort to reverse the culture of capitalism that has undoubtedly crippled California's ability to educate student's statewide. Budget cuts, investigations, and fiscal chaos are indeed obstacles to reform. However, the window of opportunity for change hasn't closed. As long as citizens remain steadfast in supporting the power of education, hope for change remains. The district needs to remember that the money it spends comes from the wallets of hardworking families and students who seek a better life through the virtue of academia.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Los Angeles Valley College was founded over 60 years ago on the site of a 104-acre dairy farm. When I arrived as a new faculty member in 1976, Campus Center was our newest building. With long standing budget challenges at the state and local level, and only enough funds

“As we build we are committed to preserving our college's environment as an educational treasure and a community asset.”

-Susan Carleo
President, Valley College

to buy an occasional bucket of paint, the Los Angeles Community College District (LAVC is one of the nine LACCD colleges) decided it was time to go directly to the voters for help. Beginning in 1999 we passed the first of three construction bonds that will enable us to ReVitalize Valley by 2014.

The college's educational and facilities master plans provide a detailed look into our future (these documents are posted on our web site at www.lavc.edu). Over the next four years we will build a parking structure, a student center, a job training/administration building, improved athletics fields, and a media/performing arts center.

As we build, we are committed to preserving our college's environment

as an educational treasure and a community asset. The college has recently inventoried our 1,600 trees as part of our walkways and exterior improvements. When construction is complete we will have 1,800 trees of varying species and age in good health throughout the campus. We continue to explore alternatives regarding the disposition of trees slated for removal due to the construction projects.

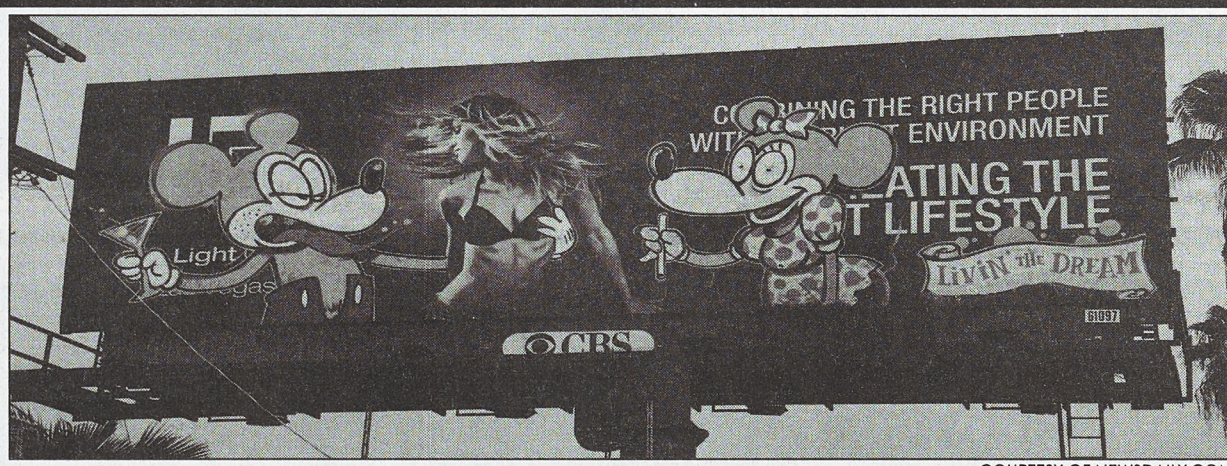
Parking is also a big concern for our 19,000 students as well as the community. Three campus changes have helped mitigate campus parking challenges: a modified class schedule so that students can take more classes with fewer trips; the Orange Line; and a 1,200-car parking structure which will be built by 2013.

We continue to be faced with the difficult reality of building and cutting at the same time. Our bond funds can only be used for building buildings. Our decreasing state funds have led to cuts in classes and services. However, as the state's economy improves, which should be about the same time we finish construction, we expect to be adding classes again.

We are well on our way to transforming an antiquated college into one with up-to-date teaching and learning facilities. Each semester that passes brings improvements that provide students and faculty with buildings worthy of the high quality programs we offer.

We will continue to post regular updates on our college web site.

Sincerely,
Susan Carleo, President



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BANKSY'S REFLECTION OF L.A. IS TRUER THAN MOST

Street artist, Banksy, has made his own impression in Los Angeles, and it sure looks great.

NATHAN McMAHON
STAFF WRITER

At its core, art is subversive, dangerous, anti-authority, and often times derided in the moment it is created. This was never truer than with the multi-talented street artist Banksy.

His recent splash of art that was spewed on our city is one that was probably sparked due to his directorial film debut, “Exit Through the Gift Shop” and its Oscar nomination in the Best Documentary category. The film would ultimately lose out to the financial meltdown doc, “Inside Job.” The images that have popped up around the city consist of a young, machine-gun-wielding boy, shooting multi-colored, chain-fed crayons in a field of rainbow colored flowers with a smiling sunshine looking on in bliss in Westwood.

Also on display was a titillating Sunset Boulevard billboard. Banksy drew an inebriated and happy handed Mickey Mouse groping the billboard model, while Minnie Mouse looked on with a cocaine-infused grin.

Many people would consider his brand of expression to be a nuisance as it loosely fits into the graffiti spectrum.

He splashes provocative images on the sides of concrete buildings, asphalt overpasses, and steel trestles in a way that evokes the roots of spray paint graffiti and its birth in the urban decay in major cities and industrial areas the world over. Yet, his style brings it to a level in which one should look at his work as art of the highest caliber.

His style of guerilla warfare on the senses and sensibility of common folk has always been at the heart of his pieces and it makes perfect sense for him to push his film to win the award after its much deserved nomination. He of course did this by plastering the billboards, walls, and streets of Los Angeles with some new pieces

for us, the viewers, to chew on.

This spark of a viral marketing campaign at its most basic level is exactly what the elusive and mysterious artist excels at. Banksy is his nom de plume, but his true identity is a well guarded secret.

In fact, in a recently pulled eBay listing, bids had reached the \$1 million mark to get the scoop on his real identity. The auction was pulled a day before it ended and it all appeared to be an elaborate hoax created by Banksy himself. This appears to be another attempt at stirring the publicity pot in preparation for the Academy Awards.

While his style may not appeal to everyone, the merit of his work speaks for itself. His art pieces demand thousands, if not millions of dollars and his work is present in almost every contemporary art collection. His graffiti brings the mundane structures around us to life and his art is a celebration of the essence of the eternally struggling counter-culture movement. The effort should be applauded, because when it comes to art, anything goes.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW WOULD POTENTIAL CUTS TO VALLEY COLLEGE'S SUMMER SESSION AFFECT YOUR EDUCATION?



“Several of the cinema classes are gone. Since I'm a film major and I need them to get into the UCLA film school it makes it really hard to try and apply.”
-KATHERINE O'ROURKE
CINEMA



“It would affect me a lot. I would have to wait another year to transfer, and it would back up all of my plans for the future.”
-HARLEY RAMOS
PHILOSOPHY



“Well, I'm really not going to be taking any summer classes this upcoming semester, so they wouldn't really affect me in any sort of way.”
-KAREN GONZALEZ
BIOLOGY



“Honestly, I have no idea because I'm not sure if I'm going to be here next semester, because I'm thinking about going to somewhere else, another school.”
-CHRIS CARTAGENA
UNDECLARED



“Well, I get financial aid, but still I mean, they would affect me bad.”
-JOANA SALDUVAR
ENGLISH

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

MARCH 10

Get Tips on Picking a Major or Career at the "Undecided Major and/or Career" Workshops.

The LAVC Career/Transfer Center will hold a "Undecided Major and/or Career" Workshop on Monday, March 7 from 1-2 p.m. and Thursday, March 10 from 5-6 p.m. in the Student Services Annex. This workshop will help you to take steps to find what major and/or career field best suits you. For more information, contact the Career/Transfer Center at (818) 947- 2646 or visit <http://www.lavc.edu/Transfer/index.html>.

! THINK TRANSFER

Free Friday Bus Trips to explore local four year colleges: Loyola Marymount University March 18, CSU Northridge March 25, CSU Channel Islands April 29, and UC Los Angeles May 6. Sign-up in the Career/Transfer Center to reserve your seat.

MARCH

Wednesday, 9
Mount St. Mary's Rep
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, 10
CSU Los Angeles Rep
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Woodbury University
Rep 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Job Shadow Orientation
Workshop 1-2 p.m. or
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 5-6 p.m.

Monday, 14
Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 1-2 p.m.
How to Transfer
Workshop
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 15
Careers in Education
Speakers Panel
1-2:30 p.m. Monarch Hall
How to Transfer
Workshop 1-2 p.m.

All activities held in Career/Transfer Center (Student Services Annex), unless otherwise indicated. For further information call (818) 947-2646

BUDGET CUTS AFFECT CLUB DAY

Budget cuts at Valley make it harder for students to join school clubs.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Club organizers use Club Day not just to recruit but also to create awareness on a common problem that affects every student. Right outside Monarch Hall, in the quad known as "the horse shoe area," is where many clubs had set up on Wednesday for Club Day.

Sociology major Manuel Montoya found himself going from table to table looking for the right club to join. "I'm looking for a club where I can connect with people and I can express ideas and where we have same interests," Montoya said.

Every semester, Club Day is an event where many of the different clubs in school come out and recruit people with a same interest. However, this semester's Club Day had a different vibe since a common theme ruled the event; budget cuts.

Jennifer Quirno, president of the Sociology Club is involved in the movement of creating awareness to stop budget cuts.

"...We are going to be a voice for you, we go and raise awareness in classrooms so we can go out and represent you because many of us depend on financial aid, and we need to put a stop to this..." Quirno said.

Although Montoya might not be directly affected by the budget cuts as he is a Military Veteran

cuts. "They cut so many classes," he said. "This semester was hard to fill up the required 12 units to be eligible for the bill and to stay in the track team, many of my fellow athletes aren't in the team this semester because they didn't have the 12 units to be in the team."

Inter Club Council Representative for the Veterans Club, Byron Aguirre, expressed his concerns as budget cuts affect Veterans.

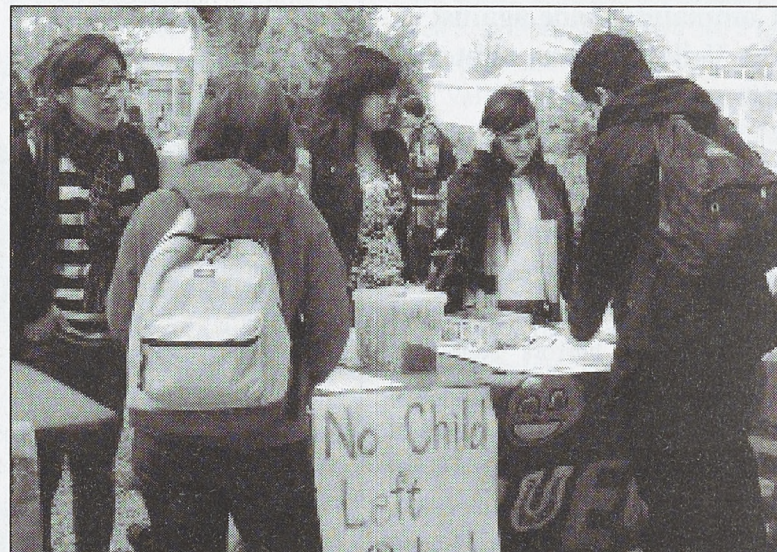
"Many of our fellow Veterans suffered from [Post Traumatic Syndrome] and are used to a conferrable routine and are trying

to be conferrable where they feel safe. Because of the cuts fewer classes are offered and now they find themselves going out to another school, out of their element in an uncomfortable atmosphere," said Aguirre.

CLUB DAY # 3
March 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monarch Square

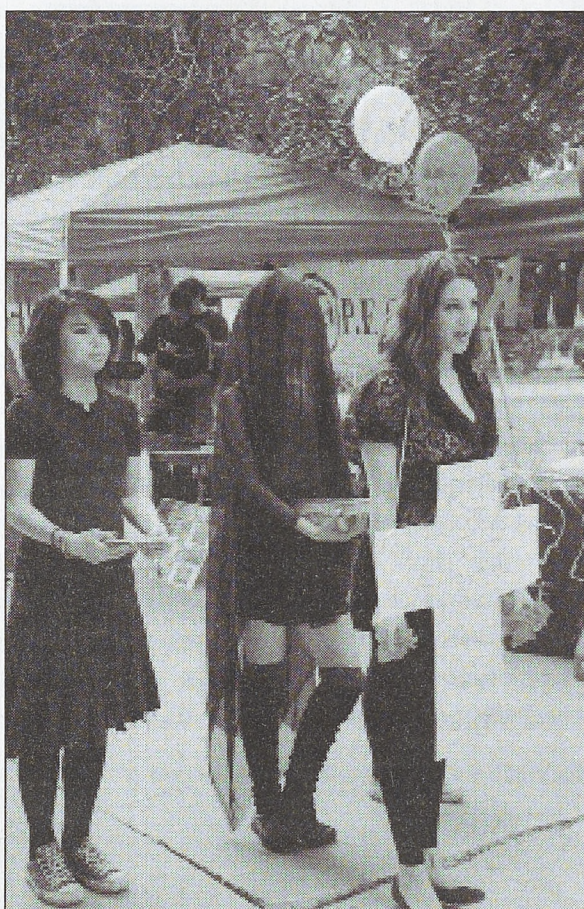
CLUB DAY # 4
March 30, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monarch Square

CLUB DAY #5
May 11, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monarch Square



GOING CLUBBING - Valley students decide which club is best for them on Club Day.

ACTING OUT



PERFORMANCE ART - Dance Club President Noelle Andressen-Kale and fellow club members protest budget cuts by performing an artistic dance.



BRIANA FARINA | VALLEY STAR

and is benefited by the G.I. Bill. Montoya is affected by the lack of offered classes due to budget

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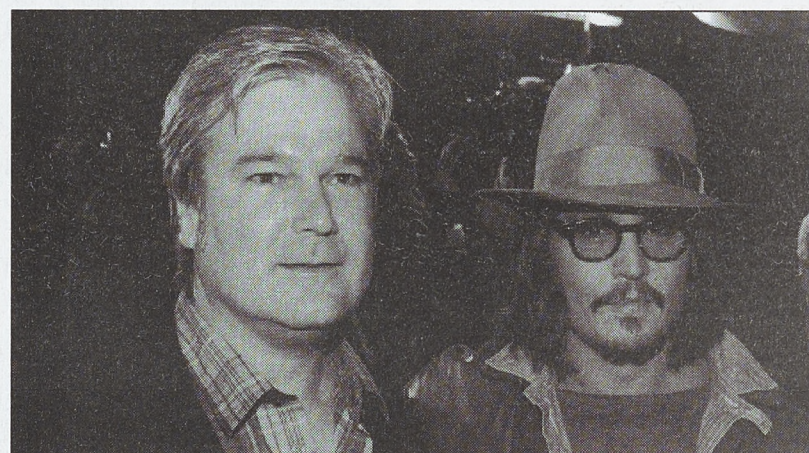
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DANG OL' RANGO



COURTESY OF CINEMAGIA.RO

"Rango" director Gore Verbinski talks westerns, reptiles, and working with Johnny Depp.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Home is always where the heart is. Considering the twists and turns Gore Verbinski has had in his career, the director finally feels like a prodigal son. "When I was very young I found Sergio Leone movies, you know, "Duck, You Sucker," and "Once Upon a Time in the West." I saw them probably at an age-inappropriate period and felt like I was sneaking into a forbidden world.

The idea of a forbidden world has almost subconsciously permeated Verbinski's latest release, "Rango."

The film, which at first sight would look like a children's film, expands upon classic film motifs while embracing Salvador Dali and, ironically, Hunter S. Thompson.

"The origins of Rango really started with an idea which was Western with creatures of the desert. Then we knew we needed a fish out of water story to dissect the 'man with no name' and a stranger coming into town."

For the subtlety needed to accurately convey the mixed bag of ideas Verbinski was working with, there could be no better main character. With that said, there couldn't be a better actor to play a chameleon than Johnny Depp.

"The chameleon as a concept is, you know...not only literally a

chameleon but his core emotional stat is a guy who can be anything but - but then, 'who is he?' And that was a really great thing to discuss with Johnny, you know, because I feel like quite often he'll refer to himself as there's a little bit of Jack Sparrow, a little bit of Ed Wood, a little bit of [Edward] Scissorhands in there and, my response would be, 'Well, there's not much room for Johnny Depp.'

That seems to be the genius of both the actor and director. The more influences they are channeling into their work, the more authentic the work as a whole is.

"When working with him (Depp), you come up with a language when you direct actors and every act is a different process and [you] expect it to be as well as evolve a little bit you get the best out of that actor and you change how you treat one actor to another. Certainly with Johnny doing so much work, together we developed a shorthand. I mean, a lot of times I'll speak almost in sound effects and nonsensical words. You know, go up between takes, go up and underline one line dialogue and say, you know, more fuzz here, more spunk on this one."

Regardless if Verbinski is shooting Japanese horror film remakes or filming pirates on the seven seas, the director's sun always sets in the west.

"It has been the Western. I mean, I think those Pirate movies were Western."

STRING THEORY TESTED

"String Dialogues" give students a lesson in musical chemistry.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Some people are meant for each other. Call it love at first sight, or in this case, love at first note. So it goes in the case of Er-Gene Kahng and Carter Dewberry. From the moment this string duo first played together they knew they had a special chemistry.

"It's really unusual to find someone you can work with so easily," cellist Dewberry said about violinist Kahng.

And once they started their short, three-song performance, this special chemistry became instantly apparent. The duo played through a three-movement piece by Beethoven with precision and grace. They stayed in perfect timing with each, despite the absence of a solid rhythmic beat and the many tempo changes of the song. Each note was held the exact same length by both and cut off at precisely the same moment.

Dewberry explained that they met at UCLA 10 years ago, where they did most of their playing together. Kahng currently lives in Arkansas, and traveled here for a short series of performances. Kahng made the journey because she could not find a cellist in Arkansas to play "Sonate" by Maurice Ravel, the second and most impressive piece of their performance.

"Sonate" is one of the hardest pieces a cellist will ever play. It uses many extended techniques, and you'll enjoy watching it as much as listening," Dewberry said before breaking into the song.

The song was fast paced and had an eerie feel to it, created by unusual minor chords, off-harmonies and a lack of steady melody or standard song writing formula. This made it the most interesting and enjoyable piece of the concert.

The final piece was "Passacaglia," which is often referred to as "The Impossible Duet." This song is infamous for being showy, difficult, and fun. It was an energetic closer, and did not disappoint.

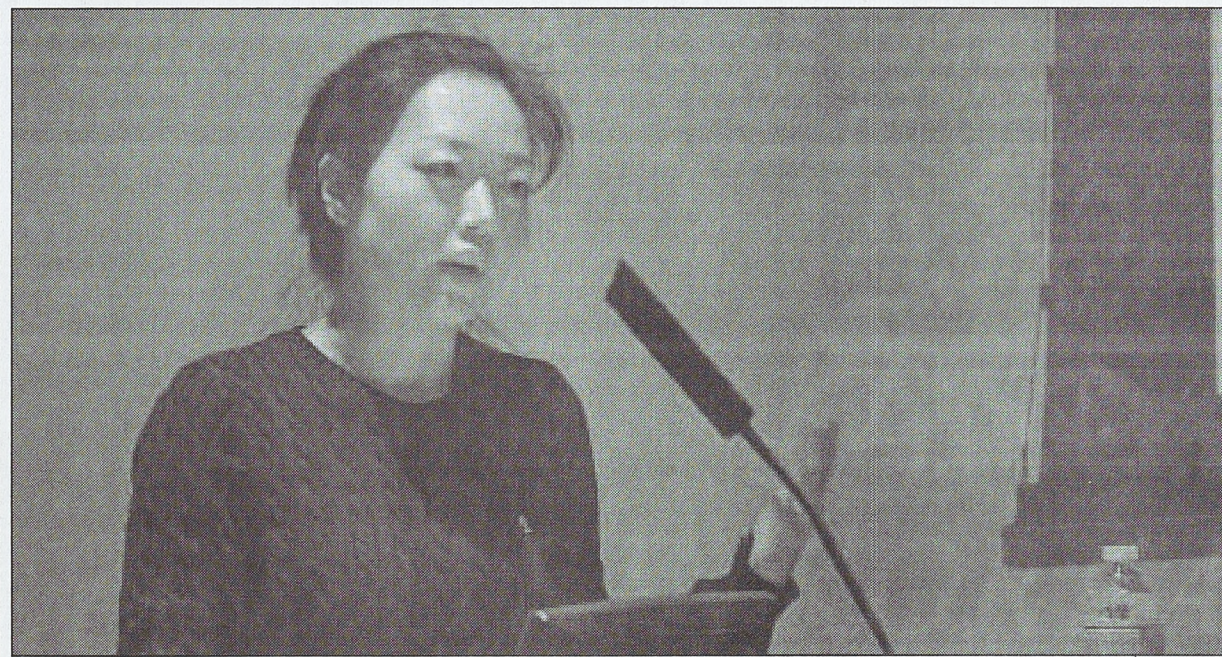
One thing that did disappoint was the small size of the

audience. Musicians of this skill level deserve a full house, especially since it was a free concert. People who passed this show up missed out on a fun and entertaining musical experience.

Despite the small crowd, the applause roared after the show, and as people filed out, comments were overheard, such as "That was awesome," and "I want to go home and play my violin now." It was an inspiring and motivational show.



STRINGING ALONG - Violinist Er-Gene Kahng and cellist Carter Dewberry introduce a new style of chamber music to Valley students.



SURVIVOR - Journalist Euna Lee recounts the experience of being captured by North Korean soldiers while reporting in the field.

140 DAYS IN KOREA

Journalist Euna Lee shares her story of capture and imprisonment.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

"While I was running, I was hoping they wouldn't shoot my head," said journalist Euna Lee, referring to March 17, 2009, when she and fellow journalist, Laura Ling were captured and imprisoned by North Korean soldiers while filming a documentary. Their 140-day ordeal ended on Aug. 2, 2009 in a pardoned release following a visit by former President Bill Clinton.

Speaking in broken English, with a quiet demeanor suggestive of deep pain and vulnerability, Lee spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at Cal. State University, Northridge on March 2.

More than 230 people listened as Lee recounted how the journalist team set out to detail the struggle of North Korean defectors, mostly women, who fled to China in search of a better life, only to find themselves sold into various forms of sexual slavery.

Lee's experience had all the

makings of a sensational media story. Two journalists working for former Vice President Al Gore's relatively new television network, Current TV. One, an unknown editor/producer - Lee - on her first field assignment, and the other, - Ling - the sister of a well-known National Geographic correspondent who would later use the power of her high-ranking contacts to help negotiate the women's release. International relations fueled the drama as North Korea's nuclear capabilities were top news at the time of the capture.

It's somewhat ironic then, that the best advice Lee imparted to those in attendance was, "Don't go after the sensational. Go after what touches your heart."

While interesting, Lee's speech lacked structure as she bounced between brief stories of refugee women she'd interviewed prior to her capture, and accounts of being dragged across the frozen Tumen River and interrogated by North Korean soldiers.

"My head was swimming of what I could or could not say," she explained, referring to protecting sources in China; an objective held in such high regard, she quickly ate slips of paper with contact information to prevent North Korean

soldiers from finding them.

She also spoke of how her Christian faith helped her view her captors with an open mind, dispelling early beliefs as a child born and raised in South Korea, that North Koreans were "evil." This personal revelation presented like an undiagnosed case of Stockholm Syndrome.

Most of the lecture felt like watching someone uncomfortably deliver a scripted book report. Still, it's hard not to be moved by the undercurrent of sheer terror when she said, "We held on to everything we could, trying to stay on Chinese soil."

Notably absent from the lecture was an update regarding any plans to continue to tell the story of North Korean defectors, words of caution (or impassioned encouragement) to aspiring student-journalists considering a career in investigative reporting, or any acknowledgement of the fact that, had the journalists lacked the strong personal support of U.S. diplomats, the outcome might have been different.

A graduate of the Academy of Art University's Motion Pictures & Television Editing program, Lee appears to be more comfortable behind the camera than in front of the crowd.

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- **Summer Session 1**
May 31, 2011 to August 23, 2011 (12 weeks)
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May 31, 2011 to July 12, 2011 (First 6 weeks)
- **Summer Session 3**
July 13, 2011 to August 23, 2011 (Second 6 weeks)

The course list is available at <http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/summer.html>, with additional courses listed as they become accessible.



California State University
Northridge

VALLEY'S MONICA HANG NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

Women's basketball Head Coach Monica Hang was named the WSC coach of the year.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

This season the Lady Monarch basketball team had a lot to accomplish. Adjusting to new Head Coach Monica Hang and building chemistry amongst 10 new freshmen players, the goal of being the best in the Western State Southern Division Conference was no easy task.

But the Monarchs did just that. The women on the team worked with Hang and the chemistry on and off the court showed through the team's play, despite losing several players to injuries throughout the season.

"We had a lot of challenges and obstacles," Hang said. "Once we found our chemistry, there was always someone getting hurt. We always had to accommodate and someone had to step up to the position."

One of the highlights of the season was beating College of the Canyons, which was undefeated, at Valley 68-64 on Feb. 9.

"I don't think we can complain, from last year's (place in the conference) ... being fifth to being second. We beat the number one team in the conference, that is actually in the Elite Eight," said Hang. "I think they achieved a lot."

However, the biggest win for the Lady Monarchs was Hang being awarded WSC Coach of the



COACHING IT UP - Lady Monarchs Head Coach Monica Hang instructed her players in a time-out during the game against Bakersfield College on Feb. 12.

Year, and sophomore guard Porcha Davis and forward Richelle Najera making first team in the conference.

"I don't think it's an award for me, it's for the staff and the students who played for me [and] helped me get this," said Hang.

This is Hang's first honor as Coach of the Year, and Athletic Director Diedra Stark was not surprised by her achievement.

"I'm so proud of her," said Stark. "I'm proud that the conference (was) able to look at what she accomplished in a short time. I'm ecstatic that the conference could see [her hard work]."

On top of being coach of the year, Hang was happy to see two players from Valley make first team in the conference, especially since they set the bar for Monarch basketball.

"Both of them lead our team," said Hang. "Richelle was our 'big man,' everything pretty much ran around her. Porcha, she has the tools defensively and offensively to guard and score for us. I think we need to give credit to the other players on the team. [They] couldn't have gotten first team without the sacrifice of their team."

Hang is hopeful that her sec-

ond year at Valley will be as good as the first, with strong chemistry and respect being key components for the team next season.

"The student athletes built a strong foundation, played hard and they represented the college in a positive way," explained Hang. "We're going to build on that, and we want more ... we want to do well in the classroom and keep the reputation going."

MONARCH SCHEDULES

Baseball:
Thursday, March 10
vs. Glendale @ Valley
2 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
vs. Bakersfield @ Valley
1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15
vs. Mission @ Mission
2:30 p.m.

Track and Field:
Friday, March 11
Oxy Distance Carnival @ Occidental College
6 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
CSUN Invitational @ Cal State Northridge
9 a.m.

Friday, March 18
WSC #1 @ Cuesta
(changed from Moorpark)
12 p.m.

Softball:
Thursday, March 10
vs. Citrus @ Valley
1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
vs. Pasadena @ Valley
11 p.m.

Swimming and Diving:
Friday, March 18
WSC Duals @ Pierce
2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 1
WSC Quad Meet #3 @ Valley
2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 8
WSC Quad Meet #4 @ Cuesta
2:30 p.m.

MONARCHS SHINE AT WSC QUADS SWIM MEET

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in the WSC Quads #1, culminating in impressive results.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

The first Western State Conference Quads of the season turned out to be a promising meet for all Valley swimmers. Dominating almost every event, the Monarchs left with confidence heading into the rest of the season.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed against Cuesta College and College of the Canyons last Friday at Valley. The men's team scored a total of 81 points, earning first place, and the women's team scored a total of 66 points placing them in second behind Cuesta, which won the match with 81 points.

"What we're looking for is a little bit of improvement each time we compete," said Monarch men's head coach Jim McMillan. "Both teams are good, Cuesta is good and Canyon is good. Cuesta is traditionally always strong and we had a good meet against them."

Out of the 27 events, the men's team placed first in six events and the

women's team placed first in three events.

"It felt like a lazy meet, it was fun, it went by fast ... so it was good," said Valley sophomore swimmer Rashin Durabi.

The women's team started with a good stride, winning the first event in the 200-yard medley relay at 2 minutes, 6.67 seconds. As the day progressed, the team fell a little behind, placing behind Cuesta College and College of the Canyons in events five through nine. Valley freshmen Georgia Pino won first place in the 200 individual medley (2:23.52) and Allyson Young in the 500 freestyle (6:19.78).

"Considering how small our team is, we are definitely faster," said Valley swimmer Gary Arthur. "We only have nine or 10 guys this year [and] last year we had fifteen or so, but overall everyone on the team is fast compared to last year."

Arthur easily placed first in all his events, which were the men's 400 medley relays with a time of 3:47.71, and the 200 with a time of 2:05.76. The men's team put up first place times in the 200 freestyle (1:52.02), 50 freestyle (22:76), 100 freestyle (50:43), 200 backstroke (1:57.35) and the 400 freestyle relay (3:42.84).

Valley's next meet will be held at Pierce College Friday, March 18. for the WSC duals at 2:30 p.m.



DIVE - Valley College competed in the WSC Quads #1 last Friday at home.



VELOCITY - Freshman David Armas throwing to a Pierce player Tuesday.

MONARCHS CAN'T GATHER OFFENSE

The Valley College Monarchs couldn't find a way to snap their losing streak.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

The Monarch baseball team entered Tuesday's game with hopes of ending its eight game losing streak against the Pierce Brahmas. The Brahmas, however, held solid on defense late in the game, defeating Valley by a 5-3 margin.

After a scoreless first inning for both teams, the Brahmas started the second inning with a lead off walk by Monarch Freshman starting pitcher David Armas. By the end of the second inning the Brahmas had taken a 3-0 lead.

Despite Armas holding the Brahmas at three runs, the Monarchs couldn't muster up any offense in the next four innings.

"Outside of the outcome, our team played the game a lot better than we have in the past," said Monarch Head Coach Dave Mallas.

During the bottom of the seventh inning the Monarchs got on the board off an RBI single from third baseman Robert Gonzalez that scored shortstop Ivan Vela. Catcher Chase Munoz put Vela into scoring

position on a well executed hit and run play.

"We gave ourselves an opportunity to take the lead in the eighth inning," said Mallas. "I'm proud of our guys and the way they came back. They haven't been able to show that resilience throughout the year."

As the bottom of the eighth inning started, outfielder Trevor Rapp led off with a single to left field. On the next play designated hitter Hank Burditt delivered an RBI single to center field bringing the deficit to within one, 3-2. Following a pitching change for the Brahmas the Monarchs advanced runners with a sacrifice bunt to put runners on the corners with one out. Brahma pitcher David Carver then let loose a wild pitch and Burditt stole home to even up the score. With the bases loaded the Monarchs were unable to take the lead with another run, as Carver stopped the bleeding by getting the next two batters out.

The ninth inning belonged to the Brahmas, which scored against relief pitcher Stephen Odachowski. An RBI single from right fielder Travis Forbes gave them a one run lead and two batters later a double from first baseman James Wharton added a second run, giving them a 5-3 advantage.

The Brahmas held the Monarchs scoreless in the ninth and secured the 5-3 win.

ANALYZE THIS CELEBRITY — DRIVEN PRICES

The infatuation with the new celebrity athlete hits Lakers fans wear it hurts.

LUCAS THOMPSON



A couple of months ago I decided to splurge a little. I had never seen the Los Angeles Lakers play and I was absolutely determined to watch the purple and gold live from the Staples Center. Unfortunately after leaving the arena I realized two things: there was good reason I had never attended a Lakers game, and the view is much better from my couch.

The middle level seats sold for around \$200 each and came with a perfectly good view of the big screen, which made it a perfect movie-going experience with a hint of real basketball directly below. Though I enjoyed the game and moreover relished in the fact that the team defeated former Lakers teammate Trevor Ariza and the New Orleans Hornets, I couldn't quite grasp the almost \$600 I had shelled out after paying for the tickets, parking, food and drinks.

The average ticket price to see a Lakers game for 2010 was \$113, up \$5 from the 2008 price of \$107. If you're looking to actually see the game, prices can range anywhere from \$160 to \$295, depending on who the team is playing and if they pose any opposition to the world champs. Unfortunately, this is also a gamble. The Lakers are a veteran team and are arguably the best team in the league. Simply put, you may throw down big bucks to watch Kobe Bryant and company take the night off.

Granted, nobody forced me to spend the extra dough for the middle level seats, but I didn't feel comfortable in choosing any of my other options, which included bringing a telescope and a Kleenex to wipe the blood from my nose or hanging from the rafters above the Jumbotron to get the "aerial view." I suppose I could have just popped for the \$25 for parking and watched the game at the ESPN Zone ... at least I would have been near the Staples Center.

Despite my frustration in spending \$400 for the seats alone, a moment prior to tip-off did offset my cost. As my friend and I headed to our seats actress Hilary Swank passed by and gave us a smile as she walked through the lobby with her son. Guess you do have to be a millionaire to catch the Lakers on a consistent basis, or ever ...

But this speaks to a bigger issue. In this day and age athletes are celebrities, especially in cities like Los Angeles, Miami and New York. The vast majority of Lakers game attendees are not die-hard Lakers fans, they attend because they are celebrities themselves or deem the event a place to gain another notch on the belt of financial and social status.

Let's be honest, the Staples Center is a red carpet away from being the Academy Awards and the organization charges these insane amounts of money because they can, and people will pay.

Sadly this leaves the majority of true Lakers fans that bleed purple and gold no other option but to invest in a good pair of hiking shoes to climb up to their seats or head out and buy a flat screen. I'm saving up for a game in 2013 ... anyone care to join?

Email Lucas Thompson at
editor@lavalleystar.com